

CHECKING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR BIAS

When choosing teaching materials (e.g. textbooks, computer software, children's literature, videos, etc.), consider the following questions to determine the presence of bias beliefs and attitudes towards different cultures.

Questions to consider:

1. Does the material include the unique contributions of men, women, and children of various micro cultures?
2. Does the material portray each sex, culture, race, and ethnic group in a manner which will develop understanding, acceptance, and respect?
3. Does the material present an analysis of conflict situations honestly and objectively in appropriate curriculum areas, with possible solutions to intergroup tensions?
4. Does the material avoid stereotypic distortions-racial, ethnic, religious, families, and sex-role in content and illustrations?
5. Does the material encourage respect for personal, cultural, and female/male differences and the worth and importance of the individual?
6. Does the material reflect appreciation for the diversity of religious faiths?
7. Does the material reflect appreciation for language diversity?
8. Does the material reflect respect, value, and appreciation for persons who have different ability levels?
9. Does the material help students develop the basic value of the respect of others who are culturally different?
10. Does the material provide specific and accurate information about a culture?
11. Does the material present main characters that are multidimensional?
12. Does the material offers parallel themes, issues, or characters to mainstream works that can be identified, compared, and discussed?